

Amendments to the Drawings

Sheets 32 and 33 (Figs 38 and 39) are enclosed marked "Replacement Sheet".

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant thanks Examiner for the detailed Office Action dated January 25, 2007. In response to the issues raised, the Applicant offers the following submissions and amendments.

Amendments

Page 23, line 12 of the description has been amended to refer to Figures 38 and 39 instead of Figures 37 and 38. We submit that this merely corrects an obvious error, in which the correction is obvious to the reader, given that page 22, lines 14 and 15 already direct the reader to Figure 38 and 39 in relation to the plunging process.

Figure 38 and 39 have been amended to better indicate the location of the retaining protrusion 168, the pre-plunge recess 165 and the post plunge recess 169. Figure 38 previously did not include the reference number 165 indicating the pre-plunge recess. Similarly, Figure 39 did not include the reference number 169 indicating the post plunge recess. However, as the reader is directed to view Figures 38 and 39 in combination, it would be apparent to the reader where the pre-plunge recess is located in Figure 38 and where the post plunge recess is in Figure 39.

Figures 38 and 39 have also been amended to include enlargements of the retaining protrusion 168, the pre-plunge recess 165 and the post plunge recess 169. While we submit that these features are discernable without the enlarged insets, the enlargements serve to make the manner of engagement between these formations abundantly clear.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that disengagement of the complementary features requires sufficient deformation of the first and or second portions. The skilled reader would readily appreciate that this broadly defines the interference fit type of engagement illustrated by the retaining protrusion 168, the pre-plunge recess 165 and the post plunge recess 169.

Accordingly, the amendments do not add any new matter.

Drawings

As discussed above, we enclose replacement drawing sheets that highlight the engagement of the complementary features. Skilled workers in this field would immediately understand the operation of the barbed configuration of the complementary features. As described at page 28, lines 5 to 26, the retaining protrusion 168 in the pre-plunge recess 165 prevents the cover molding from being inadvertently depressed. However, if enough force is applied to overcome the interference fit between the retaining protrusion 168 in the pre-plunge recess 165, the cover molding can be depressed and the ink dispensed. To disengage the retaining protrusion in the pre-plunge recess, there must be sufficient resilience in the cover molding and or the base molding 170. However, the inclined face of the barbed shaped retaining protrusion 168 assists disengagement from the pre plunge recess.

When the retaining protrusion engages the post plunge recess 169, the barbed formation mechanically interlocks with the recess so that the user is unable to draw the cover molding back to the pre plunge recess and re-use the refill (see page 28, lines 16-22).

We submit that the skilled reader would readily understand the operation of the refill from the drawings viewed in light of the associated description.

Claims – 35USC§112

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the nature of the engagement between the cover molding and the base molding. From reading the description of the preferred embodiments, the skilled worker understands that the first and second portions are exemplified by the cover molding and the base molding, and the complementary features are illustrated by the retaining protrusion and the pre plunge recess. It is inherent that that cover molding and or the base molding be designed to deform enough for the retaining protrusion and the pre plunge recess to disengage as described in pages 23 and 28 of the description.

In light of the above, we submit that the written description fully enables the skilled worker to make and use the invention defined by amended claim 1.

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejections have been successfully traversed and the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of the application is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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